

and the Rev. O.B. Winkley on the occasion of its 149th Anniversary and its nearly century and half of service to the Houston community.

HONORING WORLD WAR II
VETERAN WARREN S. PAYNE, SR.

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Warren Payne Sr., a World War II veteran whose service to our country and love for his family embody the values of the Greatest Generation.

Mr. Payne was born in Niagara Falls in 1921 and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in August of 1942. He served in the European Theater of Operations with the 452nd Bomb Group, participating in the air campaign to fight for our nation's freedom. In July 1944, his bomber crashed while on a mission over Germany, and he and his crew became prisoners of war. Following a long, forced march in the snow, he and his fellow servicemen were finally freed in April 1945.

After he returned home from the war, Mr. Payne decided to join the family business, Payne's Hardware and Floor Covering. He ran this business in Niagara Falls for 50 years until his retirement in 1997. He is remembered by his family and friends for his kindness and generosity and was an active volunteer at St. Mary of the Cataract Church in Niagara Falls.

Warren passed away on July 7, 2007, survived by Grace, his wife of 61 years, 11 children—Warren Jr., William, John, James, Michael, Suzanne, Michele, Tricia, Christine, Laurie, and Caroline—31 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

I am proud to honor a veteran, small businessman, and hero from New York's 27th district.

HONORING 1ST SERGEANT
RICHARD PINTER

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 1st Sergeant Richard Pinter of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and to express my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Sgt. Pinter served our country as a 1st Sergeant in the Army and is well known in our district as the "Lone Bugler" for honoring fallen soldiers and veterans at their funerals. Sgt. Pinter served as a bugler in the Army for thirty-eight years and eventually rose to the position of Commander and Enlisted Bandleader of the 267th Army Band in Philadelphia.

Sgt. Pinter has also given much of his time to his community as an active member of the American Legion of Bordentown Township, Association of the National Guard, Vietnam Veterans Association and the American Hungarian Civic Association.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously grateful for Sgt. Richard Pinter's service to our nation and unique place in our district's culture. It is my honor to recognize his life and achievements before the United States House of Representatives. May he rest in peace.

INTRODUCING THE AFRICAN DESCENT AFFAIRS ACT IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill recognizing persons of African descent and to support a resolution authored by my colleague Representative HANK JOHNSON to commemorate the start of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

As our country fights to realize justice for Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Aiyana Jones, John Warner, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and many others, we must not forget the names—Stephen Lawrence, Oury Jalloh, Mark Duggan, Zyed Benna, Bouna Traore and many others who are victims of similar injustices in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

The International Decade provides an opportunity to join efforts with countries across the globe to, over the next decade, develop and implement national strategies honoring the vast contributions of people of African Descent, and to combat continuing issues of prejudice and discrimination such as those currently gripping our nation. To aid these efforts, I am proud to support Representative JOHNSON's resolution commemorating the International Decade.

I have also introduced the African Descent Affairs Act. The Act to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world, by establishing a Global Office of African Descent Affairs within the U.S. State Department that would implement strategies for people of African descent; create a "President Obama Fund" to support anti-discrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent led civil society organizations; and require that the Annual State Department Human Rights Reports include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent. U.S. foreign policy strategies such as these have improved the situation of vulnerable groups internationally. Furthermore, it would greatly assist in responding to the increasing levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by people of African descent around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the International Decade reaffirms the importance of inclusion, as well as full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent on the occasion of the launch of the International Decade by supporting this important resolution.

ROCKLEY MUSIC CENTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Rockley Family for their outstanding service and commitment to their community with their business, the Rockley Music Center.

Founded in 1946 at Colfax and Wadsworth, Melvin and Mildred Rockley, the first generation, began selling print music, record players, band and orchestral instruments, along with washers, dryers and other appliances. The business was passed on to Melvin's son Bob and his wife Nina in the 1960s at which time the business was expanded and added teaching studios. In the 1980s, the third generation, Tobin and Robin, joined the business.

Today the center includes a foundation run by Tobin and his wife Diane. Over the years, the Rockley Family has become a Lakewood icon. It is for their ongoing support of the community, Colfax BID and the Jefferson County Public Schools that the Rockley Family and the Rockley Music Center is a deserving recipient of the Steve Burkholder Diamond Legacy Award.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Rockley Family for their honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt the Rockley Family will exhibit the same dedication and service in all future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes taken on Thursday, February 12, and Friday, February 13, because I was traveling with the President and participating in a forum on cybersecurity. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 77 (Previous Question Motion on H. Res. 101): No

Roll Call Vote Number 78 (Passage of H. Res. 101): No

Roll Call Vote Number 79 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 644, the America Gives More Act of 2015): Yes

Roll Call Vote Number 80 (Passage of H.R. 644, the America Gives More Act of 2015): Yes

Roll Call Vote Number 81 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 636, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015): Yes

Roll Call Vote Number 82 (Passage of H.R. 636, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015): No

Roll Call Vote Number 83 (Approving of the Journal): Yes